91

Titusville Amateur Radio Club

TARC NEWSLETTER

June 1991

The President's Corner

This radio club is fortunate to have such an innovative team spirit. Our activities include but are not limited to community service, fund raising, field day, fox hunts, and even trying to increase QRM on the HAM bands by sharing and assisting all interested folks to join our fraternity.

One such dedicated member is to be commended for his efforts to clear a path for others to follow. Who is this fellow member? I introduce **Dave, N4WWG**. What path did Dave clear? Well, for those of you who did not participate in the last fox hunt, here is what happened. Dave realized that in order to track down that old sly fox (**Les, K4SJC**), that he must be a blood hound to sniff his way to the fox's den. Dave, being a radio buff, figured that since that old fox was emanating vibes on or about 146.55 MHz, the best way to zero in on the lair would be to capture the strongest whiffs and go get'em. The 20-30 foot mast strapped to the side of N4WWG's house has a multi-element 2 meter beam on top. Unstrapping the mast from the house was no problem. Placing the bottom end of the mast though the driver's side window of the pickup and with as near vertical position as can be had, the other end would be lofty and easily pick up the vibes. Now with one hand firmly on the pole, rotating as needed, the fox hunt is on. With twenty plus feet of pole and antenna protruding skyward, Dave cleared a path and left a trail of tree limbs and gosh who knows what else so that others may follow and find Mr. Fox and his den. Congratulations on a job well done.

For hams wishing to upgrade their license or newcomers desiring to try and get their first license, there will be a W5YI-VEC coordinated test session June 25 at 4:00 PM at the JayCee's Building... three hours before the club meeting. Spread the word, and if anyone needs assistance, or has any questions, please contact either **Vern (KB4RBU), Jim (N4ZNQ), Pike (W4EPU), Dan (K3KS), Dave (KN4VS), Jerry (KC4YDP), Morgan (K4GEA), Bruce (WA3EKM), Fred (K4DII), Les (K4SJC),** or **Bud (K4CWG)**.

A special welcome back to the club to **Walt (W4VPY)**. New members include **Clarence (KV4BY), Don (N4DTH), Gene (KC4TE), George (WB2UNK), Jim (KC4WGU), Buck (KC4WKV), Jerry (KC4YDP), Philip (KC4YER), John**

See Corner on page 3.

Officers

President: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779
Vice-President: Dick Duell W9LSD 383-9733
Secretary: Jim Meeks N4ZNQ 268-1197
Treasurer: Vern Bauer KB4RBU 267-2907

Minutes of the May 28 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Bud, K4CWG, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

The minutes of the April meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The meeting was turned over to Ray, N4LEM, who discussed the upcoming RACES exercise.

Members and visitors introduced themselves.

See **Minutes** on back.

Upcoming Events

› **June 22,23 - Field Day**, Draa Field. All licensed hams are invited to participate. Set up at 10 a.m. Saturday, operating commences at 1:00 p.m. Call Clyde, K4EOS for details.
› **June 25 - W5YI-VEC test session**, 4 p.m., JayCees building on Singleton Ave.
› June 25 - Next TARC meeting, 7 p.m., JayCees building on Singleton Ave.
› Every Wednesday night - TARC Mosquito Net, 7:30 p.m., 28.330 MHz.
› Every Thursday night - TARC Friendship Net, 7 p.m., 146.91 MHz (-600).
› 2nd Tuesday of each month - RACES meeting, 7:30 p.m., Emergency Operations Center in Rockledge (1749 Cedar Street).
› 3rd Saturday of each month - SBARC / ARRL exams, 9:30 a.m. registration, FIT room Q11 in The Quad (under ham radio mast). For info call Bill Newkirk, WB9IVR, phone 724-6183.
› **July 12 - Deadline** for articles to be included in the July edition of the *TARC Newsletter*.

The Field Day That Wasn't

By Val Valek - WB4ZUZ

copyright 1990

(Ed note: This article was written last year after last year's Field Day. Val got it to me a little late, and I decided to hold it over for this year's event.)

Last year I wrote about what Field Day was like. This year I will write about what Field Day wasn't.

Like every year, antenna erection wasn't started on time. Not everyone was chipper and well rested, but all arrived in good spirits. Perhaps that was the problem: too much good spirits the night before.

One ham wasn't pleased to see his ten meter beam with an SWR of 2.5 to 1. The more he tweaked, the worse the SWR got. When he noticed that the driven element wasn't where it was supposed to be, the SWR wasn't a problem anymore.

The triband antenna used for 20 meters also wasn't tuning up very well. Perhaps if the traps weren't filled with water. The 40-meter beam wasn't the prettiest antenna I have ever seen, but it worked great.

Ozzie's 2-meter beam wasn't any trouble, though. It works first time, every time.

The weather wasn't any more cooperative than any other year. A brief shower cooled things off, but there wasn't a dry ham in the house. The stickers weren't as tall as last year, but they were tall enough to engage our shoelaces.

This year there wasn't just one person supplying auxiliary power, we had generators of all sorts.

For the first year I remember, the counter wasn't cluttered with extra ham equipment. We brought only what we needed. This was also the first year we weren't on the air at 2:00. Of course, we weren't required to be on the air at 2:00, we just couldn't start before 2:00.

We kicked off the festivities at 3:30. There weren't any empty seats in front of the transceivers for the first four hours.

There weren't any growling stomachs after 6:00, either. Stew, biscuits, pie, and cookies weren't going to waste. They were going to waist!

There wasn't any problem getting volunteers for the graveyard shift. Of course, at night 10 and 15 weren't open, but 20 and 40 got quite a workout.

In the morning 10 meters opened up and redeemed itself. It wasn't any problem to fill a sheet of 25 entries in 25 minutes.

Unlike other years, we weren't all ready to go home at 11:30. We actually stayed and transmitted for the whole 24 hours.

All the hams had a great time at Field Day this year, and I believe that we will have a respectable showing when our points are tallied. We can attribute a successful Field Day not to what it was, but to what it wasn't.

TARC Is Tops In RACES Drill

by Steve Schindler - WD4MJJ

On May 31, the Brevard County Office of Emergency Management conducted a hurricane exercise. Brevard County RACES was activated to test communications between evacuation centers and the Emergency Operations Center in Rockledge. **Over 30 TARC members** turned out to participate and many more members checked in to the emergency net to show their support. In fact, the number of TARC members participating in the north part of the county exceeded the number of participants in all other areas of the county combined! Brevard County RACES Coordinator **Ray Kassis, N4LEM**, said that he was "proud" of the way TARC members handled their assignments. Special thanks go to **Les Griner, K4SJC**, for his work as the north county net control station.

The Editor's Desk

By Doug Reed - N4QVY

Field Day again??? Yup, it's time once again to attempt to compete with the sun with electromagnetic emissions. If you've listened (or attempted to listen) to HF the past couple of weeks, you've noticed that the bands are misbehaving a little bit. There have been periods of no skip on any of the bands. It seems that region 6659 on the sun has been a hotbed (so to speak) of activity with solar flares. See the ARRL bulletin on page 3 for more details.

Back to Field Day. This ought to be the most exciting year ever for TARC participating in the event. The club has seen a sizable increase in membership, including new hams from the Novice class held last year, new hams as a result of the nocode licensing, and hams in the area joining or rejoining the club. I expect that many of you newcomers will come out to see what it's all about, and may just sit down at a mike and start operating. I predict the oldtimers will be back with **Wynn (WB4ZUY)** and **Val (WB4ZUZ)** holding down the late shifts. I hope to have my keyer ready for Val, Bud, and **Bob (W4VQB)** to use on CW. I think I'll have enough switches on it so that Bud can use it in iambic A mode, Val can use it in iambic B mode, and Bob can use it in semi-automatic mode. The switch positions will be labeled accordingly! I hope to operate some RTTY on my PK-232 and the abundance of Kenwood TS-440S that should be there. RTTY counts the same as CW pointwise, which counts twice as much as voice contacts.

See **Desk** on page 3.

Wanted: ARRL 5 WPM code learning tapes, keys, oscillators in exchange for hand receipt.... **For sale:** Latest "Now You're Talking" ARRL Novice/Technician theory manual. $19 plus tax. Bob, W4VQB ph. 269-1878.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Amateur Radio Digital Communications, Grant 151

https://archive.org/details/tarc-news-1991-06

ARRL BULLETIN 22 JUNE 15, 1991
On June 4 the ARRL petitioned FCC for access by amateurs, on a secondary basis, to the band 216 to 220 Mhz. Operation would be limited to fixed, point to point circuits, and would be coordinated so as to avoid interference to primary occupants including maritime mobile. Attached to the petition were engineering studies showing that limited amateur use of the band was compatible with present and other proposed users, and with television broadcasting in the adjacent band. This access to 216 to 220 MHz is sought as a partial substitute for the band 220 to 222 MHz, recently reallocated to land mobile.

ARRL PROPAGATION FORECAST BULLETIN 22
FROM TAD COOK, KT7H SEATTLE WA June 15 1991
Another week of solar flares? It seems unbelievable, but it happened again last week. Region 6659 on the solar surface continued to blast away with almost daily flares. Although a single flare in March 1989 was the largest, the current troublesome region is the only one in this solar cycle to produce three huge solar flares large and direct enough to completely saturate GOES X-ray sensors. These eruptions may have extended nearly a half million miles from the sun, and the resulting solar wind of charged particles distorted the earth's magnetic field like a candle in a breeze. The only relatively stable day in the past week was a period during part of June 7 and 8, when more normal geomagnetic conditions produced a K index of 3. During big disturbances like this, HF propagation is quite poor. Sometimes higher bands seem completely dead except for transequatorial propagation, where the only audible signals may be along a north-south path across the equator. While daytime signals on the high bands have been weak, conditions on the low frequencies during darkness have not been affected as much. Region 6659 will rotate from view on June 16. This offers the possibility of a respite from poor conditions, although there is a chance of more disturbances around June 21 from coronal hole effects. This is also the time of the month when the short term solar flux should be at a minimum. American sunspot numbers for June 6 through 12 were 137, 159, 170, 191, 209, 214, and 200 respectively, with a mean figure of 182.9. Solar flux numbers as reported by WWV for the same time period were 240, 230, 243, 238, 239, 236, and 230.

Corner...
(KC4ZHE), Dave (KC4ZJT) (Dave upgraded to General and is ready for Advanced... good going Dave), and **Bob (KC4ZSD)**... who did I miss? Our warmest welcome fellows.

Field Day is gonna be fun, be there.

73's Bud K4CWG

Desk...
What's Field Day like? If you've ever camped out, it's similar. You haul a bunch of stuff out, set it up, eat, stay up late, get up early, eat, haul a bunch of stuff down, go home, go to sleep. And oh yeah... you talk to *a lot* of people. I break operations on Field Day operating down to two types: fishing and hunting. Hunting is the easiest to accomplish, but is the less fruitful. You scan up and down the band and call out to other stations calling "CQ Field Day" or "QRZed?". You spend quite a bit of time waiting for the other station to talk to you as that station may not hear you over the other twenty stations calling the same time as you. When you fish, you stay at the same frequency and you do the "CQing". Fishing yields the most contacts over a period of time, but you gotta love pileups and trying to understand a station with other stations 1 KHz above and below where you are at.

You may have caught it... **Alan Shepard** launching the Mercury Redstone model rocket at the space center. Four TARC hams, Wynn, **Priscilla (KC4UFI)**, and myself, aided the 'trackers' in relaying the angular information of the rocket's apogee to Val, who performed the part of Comm Control. Another ham from our communications department, **Steve (N4UTQ)**, completed the tracking hams.

Have you noticed yet? The *TARC Newsletter* now has advertising. The rates are as follows: $5.00 per business card or 1/8 page, and multiples of 1/8 page thereafter. Discounts for long term accounts and 1/2 page or larger ads. Contact the editor if interested. When you visit any of the advertisers, mention that you saw their ad in the *TARC Newsletter.* I'd like to thank Grady at Central Data, Bud at Expedient Services, and Eric at Radio Shack for their support.

Hope to see everyone at Draa Field Saturday!

CENTRAL DATA Computer Centers
COMPUTER SALES
SERVICE AND REPAIRS
SUPPLIES AND ACCESSORIES
SOFTWARE
6040 Grissom Pkwy.
Titusville, FL 32780
(407) 383-0705
FAX (407) 383-7750
Magnavox* Novell Cordata Citoh NEC Okidata Panasonic

STORE 01-9587
2500 S. WASHINGTON AVENUE
TITUSVILLE, FL 32780
407-267-6860
Radio Shack AMERICA'S TECHNOLOGY STORE℠
SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Eric Sheley - Manager

The **TARC Newsletter** is published on a monthly basis. Articles are published based on their newsworthiness to TARC membership, space available, and ease of entry to the publishing medium.

Preferred transfer methods are EMail to *Doug Reed* at Tech-Talk BBS, EMail on 2 meter packet to N4QVY@N4JLR or N4QVY@WD4HIM, direct packet, 3.5" AmigaDOS 880K disk, 3.5" MS-DOS 360K disk, 5.25" MS-DOS 360K disk, direct landline modem, and print / hand-written / hardcopy formats, in that order. Separate each paragraph with a blank line for ease of re-formatting into a publishing format.

Article / classified deadline is two Fridays prior to the date of the monthly meeting.

Articles may be given to the editor, Doug - N4QVY, at the IHOP on net nights, or left with Bud - K4CWG, where it will hopefully make its way to the aforementioned editor.

The **TARC Newsletter** is assembled on a Commodore Amiga computer using Gold Disk's Professional Page desktop publishing software and output to a LaserJet compatible laser printer. Folding, stamping, and mailing services this month will be done by the gang at IHOP and labels will be printed up by Bud, K4CWG, who requests that any address / name / phone number corrections be directed his way. Thanks to all those involved in this maddening once a month event.

Titusville Repeaters			
K4SJC	146.910 MHz		- 600 KHz
WB4LOE	146.970 MHz		- 600 KHz
WB4SIG	444.150 MHz	CTCSS: 103.5	+ 5 MHz

Minutes... from page 1

Bud announced that the first amateur examinations by the local VE team was a success. Exams on alternate months are planned.

Les, K4SJC, reported on the recent fox hunt and stated that a good time was had by all participants.

Jerry, KC4UFI, reported on the new repeater. All hardware is on hand and the controller is being looked at. Jerry stated

See **Minutes** next column.

If anyone knows of a ham needing any kind of support whether he or she be ill or in need of an antenna raising contact one of the individuals listed below.

Clyde Lee	K4EOS	267-9375
Lloyd Mullins	K4LTK	267-6342
Dan Boyle	K3KS	268-2469
Cliff Hoag	KC4SYD	267-7030

Minutes...

that permission to locate the repeater at the new tower f the county sheriff radio hasn't been received yet but is only matter of time.

Vern, KB4RBU, reported that the garage sale held by th club was a success, raising over nine hundred dollars.

Cliff, KC4SYD, accepted the duties of the 50-50 drawing.

Clyde, K4EOS, reported on field day preparations. He state that setting up will start at 10 A.M. Saturday June 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

/s/ Jim N4ZNQ, Secretary

Expedient
Services, Inc.
Computer Maintenance

CARL R. HUGHES
Vice President
Director of Service

2445 Cheney Hwy.
Titusville, FL 32780
(407) 267-3450

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 73
Titusville, FL 32781